

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

***SEPTEMBER 14, 2006***

## **GRAND TOWER MAN SENTENCED ON FIREARMS CONVICTION**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 14, 2006, **STEVEN E. ABERNATHY**, age 46, of Grand Tower, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton. **ABERNATHY**, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, was sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment, 3 years' supervised release, and was fined \$200.

The violation took place on October 7, 2005, in Grand Tower, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives pursuant to those agencies participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in the Southern District of Illinois. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.